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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.*

Prepared by Members of the Staff.

The Lalande Prize Awarded to Director Campbell.

Comptes Rendus, 1903, December 21st, publishes the following report of Commissioners Loewy, Callandreau, Wolf, Radau, Janssen, and Deslandres, of the Académie des Sciences in awarding to Professor W. W. Campbell the Lalande Prize. This annual prize is awarded to the person who, in France or elsewhere, has "made the most interesting observation, or written the memoir or accomplished the work most useful to the progress of astronomy."

"The commission proposes unanimously to award the Lalande prize to M. Campbell, of the Lick Observatory (California).

"M. Campbell, connected for fifteen years with this observatory, first as astronomer, then as director, has made the best possible use of the great instrument and of the favorable situation of the observatory. Stellar spectroscopy and astrophysics have particularly attracted him, and in this new line of research, he has made important discoveries.

"He has taken up and followed the two principal lines of application of spectrum analysis to the stars, namely the investigation of their chemical composition and physical condition, and the investigation of their radial velocity.

"To him we owe the most thorough study of the numerous remarkable temporary stars of recent years; he has been able to follow to the last stages of their decline the most difficult for observation and to recognize their more or less complete transformation into nebulæ.

"He has also been largely occupied with the spectra of variable stars and of numerous stars exhibiting individual peculiarities; he has found a great number of stars which contain in their spectra both bright and dark lines from the same origin, and which thus form in a sense an entirely new type.

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* Lick Astronomical Department of the University of California.

"In the investigation of radial velocities his work is important. He has discovered about thirty spectroscopic binaries —a larger number than discovered by any other observer. One of these has such variations of radial velocity as to indicate two periods, and is therefore a triple system.

"In this time he directed one of the American expeditions sent to the Indies to observe the total solar eclipse of 1898. The results obtained regarding the spectrum and rotation of the solar corona are of the greatest interest.

"These many works assure M. CAMPBELL one of the first places among modern astronomers.

"The conclusions of this report are adopted by the Academy."

THE NEW YEAR'S TIME-SIGNALS FROM WASHINGTON, D. C.

The series of time-signals sent from the U. S. Naval Observatory throughout the United States at the beginning of the year created no little interest.

The standard clock of the observatory was connected by wire with the local telegraph-office and the beats of the clock were transmitted to all parts of the country. The electric connections of the clock are such as to omit certain seconds, enabling any one listening to a sounder to recognize the beginning of each minute and especially the first minute of the hour. The five seconds preceding the beginning of the minute are omitted, and for the beginning of the hour the ten seconds preceding are omitted. Hence the observer listening to the sounder is enabled to identify the hour, minute, and second of the Naval Observatory clock and compare it with his own.

The time-signals were received at this Observatory by telephone from the sounder in the Western Union office at San José at ten, eleven, and twelve o'clock, and a comparison made with the beats of a sounder electrically connected with our own standard clock. It so happened that the standard clock at this place was exactly correct at midnight, so that in making a comparison no correction was needed. At ten o'clock and